

Pres

VIETNAM AND THE UNITED STATES

Hist/Pol. Sci 341 60
Interim Session
Winter 1999

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Course Information

Course Description: This course explores the relationship between Vietnam and the United States. Focusing on the post-1945 period, it highlights the principal phases in the development of that relationship, and relates the origins, implications, and consequences of the American military intervention in Vietnam. Besides examining the conduct of the war by Washington, the course also offers insight into the policymaking process of Hanoi and Saigon. One of the priorities of this course is to help students understand the active roles played by the Vietnamese factions during the conflict. The last segment of the course considers the main developments of the post-1973 period, and rationalizes the normalization of relations between the governments of Vietnam and the United States in 1995.

Required Text: Gary Hess, *Vietnam and the United States*.

Grading: Students are expected to attend lectures, read assigned materials, and participate in the class discussions (10%). Other requirements include journals (20%), one research paper (30%), one midterm examination (20%), and one final examination (20%).

Journals: Before each session, students will produce a brief (one page, typed, single-spaced) reaction paper discussing the assigned readings for that session. These journals will include such elements as commentaries, observations, and questions relative to the content. Journals will be submitted to the instructor before each session and used as the basis for group discussions.

Research Paper: Students will produce one research paper on a topic of their choice, pending approval by the instructor. This paper will be of a length of six (6) to eight (8) typed, double-spaced pages. It must include an introduction, footnotes/endnotes, and a bibliography. This paper is due on January 7.

Examinations: The midterm will be held on December 27, the final on January 7.

Attendance: Students must attend class in order to pass this course. Students who do not attend class consistently will fail the course.

Lecture Schedule

PART ONE: TO 1964

1. Introduction
2. Vietnam Before the United States
 - Origins of the Vietnamese Nation
 - Chinese Domination/Suzerainty
 - Vietnam Under the Dynastic System
 - French Colonialism
3. The United States Before Vietnam
 - American Perceptions of Asia/Asians
 - “Manifest Destiny”
 - The United States as an Asian Power
4. Rise of Nationalism and Communism in Vietnam
 - Nguyen Ai Quoc/Ho Chi Minh
 - World War I, Versailles, and Self-Determination
5. World War II, 1939-1945
 - Japanese Expansionism
 - Viet Minh-OSS Cooperation
 - Vietnamese Declaration of Independence (09/02/1945)
6. First Indochina War/Anti-French Resistance, 1945-1954
 - American Response
 - Dien Bien Phu
7. Two Vietnams, 1954-1957
 - Geneva Agreements
 - South Vietnam Under Ngo Dinh Diem
 - North Vietnam Under Ho Chi Minh
8. Insurgency in the South, 1957-1964
 - Ho Chi Minh Trail
 - National Liberation Front
 - American Intervention (Advisory Phase)
 - Diem Overthrow